UNTO PARADISE.

As one bereft, who, gazing on a face—
  Rose-lipped, rose-cheeked, with violets for eyes—
  Wistfully traces in most fond surmise
Each sweet resemblance to a vanished grace;
Or, seeing one who runs a childish race,
  Led by young birds or gilded butterflies,
  Chokes down a swelling sob or vainly tries
To keep his tears in their accustomed place;
So does the heart—that, lost in ways of sin,
  Follows unconsciously some spiritual guide
  Whose unseen footsteps lead to heaven and God—
Soften and melt if it has strength to win
  That vale in Paradise whose farther side
  The ghosts of high ambitions long have trod.

—"C. H. L."

A MEAL IN MEXICO.

Red Beans, Black Loaves and Tropical Fruit—Pulque in a "Pigskin."

Our refreshment was speedily served upon a well-scoured table, to which the addition of a cloth would have been an incongruous superfluity, and the menu was as follows: Stewed frejoles (red beans), with our choice as to "seasoning" —whether we would pour rancid goats' milk over them, or molasses from the Chinese sugar-cane; small, black loaves of Mexican bread—that would have made excellent cannon balls—of course without butter, which does not "grow" in this country; water-cresses and fresh olive oil, from which we compounded a salad fit for an emperor's table; wild honey and stewed apricots; and a bushel of ripe tamarinds, pomegranates, figs and mangoes, arranged in their own green leaves, as the poorest of these people have a tasteful habit of doing.

The inevitable pulque was at hand in a pigskin "bottle" (which retains the perfect shape of the animal, minus head and tail), and gurgled an approving note, alarmingly like life, while its contents were being emptied into our mugs. These so-called "pigskins" are really the undressed hides of sheep with the woolly side turned in. Nothing else is considered so good for holding the popular beverage—though we are told that a skin of small size costs not less than $2.50, and lasts little more than a month, as the constant fermentation going on inside soon eats the woo off! In this volcanic country the traveler must eschew water, or suffer serious consequences; good claret or Spanish wines are not always obtainable outside the larger cities, and one must drink something besides the bitter Mexican coffee; therefore we long ago made up our minds to pulque—the cheap and healthy drink of the natives—and pulque it is, every day of our lives at dinner.

I confess, however, that it required considerable effort to educate ourselves up to it, and was only accomplished by resolutely fixing our thoughts upon that glorious product of the years—the century plant—from whence it came, and by repeatedly assuring one another that the thick, white nasty liquid resembles home buttermilk—though we knew it to be an outrageous libel on northern dairies. But, even now, Betsy and I sometimes amuse ourselves in leisure moments striving to compute the quantity of sheeps'-wool which we must have absorbed in course of the last two years, since the contents of each alleged pigskin contains a good deal of it—in "solution," so to speak!—Fannie B. Ward in Boston Transcript.

Why Is the Divorce Mill Grinding?

I am amazed and indignant at the revelations made in our courts of the domestic life of people far removed from the ignorant and baser classes of society. The domestic life of the coarse and ill-bred can hardly furnish worse examples of the bad treatment of wives than those given in court by men who live in fine houses, and outside of their families are supposed to be very nice, respectable, and ornaments of society. Wives all trembling and in tears tell to the courts the awful misery and wretchedness, the foul indignity and violence with which for years they have been treated by their husbands. What is the cause of all this rushing to the divorce courts to break the chains too heavy to wear? Are American husbands losing that famous polite tenderness and consideration for women that has characterized them? Are the mean pastimes and brutal appetites taking possession of the better classes? Else why is it that the divorce mill is kept on grinding away in all the states but South Carolina?—Dr. M. W. Willis in Globe-Democrat.

Supposed Origin of the Pumpkin.

The parent stock from which the pumpkin is supposed to have originated is the small egg or orange gourd of Texas and Mexico. The Indian is given the credit of the origination, but I am strongly inclined to doubt this, believing, rather, that it is attributable to the preceding race, and that the Indian inherited it with the rest of the estate. It is inconceivable that the American Indian has, or ever has had, sufficient foresight to take and cultivate such a miserably unpalatable thing as the egg gourd in the opinion that it would amount to something in the future.—Cor. Chicago Current.

Charlemange's Plea for Open Schools.

Charlemange, in 789, gave these wise instructions: "Let one open schools to teach children to read; let, in every monastery, in every bishopric, some one teach psalms, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and employ correct copies of holy books, for often men seeking to pray to God pray badly on account of the unfaithfulness of copyists.—Boston Budget.

Annual Decoration of His Own Grave.

Stephen Kelly, of Philadelphia, is probably the only living man who ever had the pleasure of decorating his own grave. The army records and the records of Gettysburg cemetery insist that he is buried there, and Stephen persists in going up every year and strewing flowers over his suppositious last resting-place.—Chicago Times.

Some Peculiarities of the Oyster.

Probably there is to-day no man in the country who is a better judge of oysters than Mr. T. W. Wilson, the sole survivor and representative of an ancient oyster firm in Fulton market, and there is no one better acquainted with its characteristics. He is thoroughly familiar with the subject. He can tell you what the oyster feeds upon and how it takes its food. He can point out to you its gills, its liver, its stomach, its mouth and its heart, which beats only once a minute if the oyster has been sometime out of water, or if impaired or torn by opening.

He may say to you that if a person noisily approaches an oyster bed where the oysters are feeding, every shell will be instantly closed, because oysters can hear as quickly as a cat; that the oyster adheres to the shell at four different points, two on each section; that a single oyster may have 60,000,000 eggs, and that the actual bulk or volume of one of them would only be about one two hundred and fifty millionth of a cubic inch. He may explain to you the cause of the green color of oysters, and convince you that they are just as wholesome and well flavored as the whitest oyster you ever ate. Possibly he may say to you that an oyster is never "fat," although it may be plump. This plumpness is owing to a deposit of matter which it has assimilated and laid away under its "mantle," and it is this delicate, easily digested substance which renders the oyster so wholesome and nutritious.—New York Market Journal.

Gen. Grant's Expectation of Death.

"A year ago to-night," said one of those who watched about the Mount McGregor cottage for the first news of the general's death, "was one of greater suspense than marked any other all the time we were there. It was the eve of the Fourth of July and the anniversary of Grant's victory at Vicksburg. The general had become possessed of the idea that the day that had witnessed his first great triumph would also be the day of his death. He had been sinking visibly up till evening, and Dr. Douglass, partly because he was impressed with the same fatalistic idea, and because he feared that his patient's very expectation of death would bring the dissolution about, was all a tremble with apprehension for the issue of the night. Toward midnight he left the cottage, and rambling down the mountain side I met him. He was nervous and unstrung as though it was his own death he feared. We lay down on the grass in the moonlight and talked until 2 o'clock. The first beams of daylight came without the dread angel having appeared at the cottage to usher in the celebration of Grant's last anniversary of Vicksburg. Grant did not die that night, but he fully expected to, and was complacently contented at the prospect."—"Uncle Bill" in Chicago Herald.

Improvement of the Locomotive.

There is still ample room for advancement and improvement in the building of locomotives, both as to speed and power, not taking into consideration the question of durability. The improvement of the locomotive was very slow for many years, but of late there have been wonders accomplished in this important branch of railroad equipment. But few years have elapsed since the time when a statement to the effect that an engine made speed equal to one mile a minute would have been not only discredited, but scoffed at. Gradually, however, the impression that sixty miles an hour would never be attained has been worn away, and locomotives are now turned out of the works which promise even greater achievements, some being placed at the marvelous speed of seventy-six to seventy-eight miles per hour. Power has not been neglected, and the old, camel-backs, which first drew heavy trains over the Alleghenies, are being supplanted by the still more powerful Moguls. But the acme has not yet been reached. With the increased demand for speed and power will come the machines to meet it, perfect though the locomotive of to-day may now seem.—"E. H. D." in Globe-Democrat.

Sufficient to Replenish the Earth.

An English naturalist remarks that it is a sad reflection that, while the turbot lays 14,000,000 eggs, not more than one, on an average, ever lives to reach maturity. In fish, generally, it takes yearly at least 100,000 eggs for each individual to keep up the average of its species. In frogs and amphibians, a few hundred are amply sufficient. Reptiles often lay only a much smaller number. In birds, which hatch their own eggs and feed their young, from two to ten eggs per annum are quite sufficient to replenish the earth. Among mammals, three or four at a birth is a rare number, and many of the larger sorts produce one calf or foal at a time only. In the human race at large a total of five or six children for each married couple during a whole lifetime makes up sufficiently for infant mortality and all other sources of loss, though among savages a far higher rate is usually necessary. In England an average of four and a half children per family suffices to keep the population stationary.—Chicago Herald.

The Delicate Sense of Smell.

The spectroscope—capable of indicating the millionth part of a milligram of sodium—has been regarded as the most delicate of all means of analysis. Its keenness proves to be far surpassed, however, by that of the sense of smell, late European investigations having shown that the nerves of the nose are sensibly affected by one 460,000,000th part of a milligram of mercaptan—a milligram being only .0154 of a grain. And if such be the delicacy of human smell, what must be the minuteness of the smallest particle which may produce an impression on the nose of a dog.—Arkansaw Traveler.

"Sweet Grass" an Indian Perfume.

"Sweet grass" is used by the Indians as a perfume. It has a long blade like timothy, is striped, and when dried smells like sweet myrrh.

SHRINES.

About a holy shrine or sacred place
  Where many hearts have bowed in earnest prayer,
The loveliest spirits congregate from space
  And bring their sweet uplifting influence there.

If in your chamber you pray oft and well,
  Soon will those angel messengers arrive
And make their home with you; and where they dwell
  All worthy toil and purposes shall thrive.

I know a humble, plainly furnished room,
  So thronged with presences serene and bright,
The heaviest heart therein forgets its gloom,
  As in some gorgeous temple filled with light.

These heavenly spirits, glorious and divine,
  Live only in the atmosphere of prayer.
Make yourself a sacred, fervent shrine,
  And you will find them swiftly flocking there.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox in New York Mercury.

WORK OF THE FALCONER.

No Little Trouble to Take Care of the Hawks—Duties in Detail.

A falconer who has the exclusive care of half a dozen trained birds, whether falcons or hawks, or both, finds little time hanging heavily on his hands. By the time he has moved out his charges to the lawn and set their nocturnal abode in order, he will have got an appetite for his own breakfast. Then there is the business of feeding those hawks which are to fly, and perhaps exercising most of them to the lure, in the manner so graphically described by Izaak Walton. Then the bath or baths must be filled, and the hawks which are to be indulged with that luxury moved to a place where they can jump in and splash about to their hearts' delight.

Then the plan of the day's campaign must be arranged, having regard to wind and weather, and the chance of where the quarry is most likely to be found, and when the day's work in the field is over the falconer's day is not nearly done. There is the "feeding up" of the hawks that have not been allowed, or have not had time, to "take their pleasure" on the quarry. Everything depends upon meting out to the hungry creatures just that quantity of food which will keep them in full health and strength, but without overgorging them or making them inactive on the morrow. If a feather has been broken by some accident during the day it must be mended at once; if a jess is worn out it must be replaced. The feet and beaks of all the hawks should be cleansed, their hoods seen to, and the lures made ready for use on another day. Nor let it be forgotten that there is such a thing as losing a hawk. When this disaster happens the country is scoured till dark in search of the truant, and if not found, the falconer, before break of day, is again on the lookout with his lure in hand.

A successful falconer lies on no bed of roses. Only constant attention will make his hawks fond of him. But when they are so, he stands among them a friend among faithful friends. At a sign from him they will jump toward him; nay, at his first appearance—in the words of the old sportsman—"they rejoyce." The character of each of them —for hawks differ in character as much as men and women—is as well known to him as his own. He knows what can or can not be done with each; and thus he is still able to carry on the most difficult of all sports without the disappointments that have frightened away from it less patient and preserving tyros.—English Illustrated Magazine.

What Darwin's Hypothesis Suggested.

What Darwin's hypothesis suggested was, not that man was descended from the monkey, but that both man and monkey may be descendants of a common progenitor—a common type now extinct, and of which no indisputable traces have yet been found. From this common type or ground form, so to speak, the process of development may, according to Darwin, have resulted in two distinct branches or offshoots—the one branch of development ending in the monkey tribe, the other branch ending in man. It is, in the absence of any certain traces of the extinct common type or progenitor, not a subject on which to dogmatize, but is a theory or hypothesis which, in the opinion of Darwin and many other scientists after him, best accounts for the morphological development of man, viewed merely from the physical side.—Chamber's Journal.

Human Vivisection Reached at Last.

The anti-vivisectionists predicted, some years ago, that the investigators to whose objects they are "anti" would come at last to experiment on the human subject. Mr. W. Mattieu Williams has become aware of three instances in which this horrible prediction has been fulfilled, in each case with the full consent of the subject and without injury to him. Pasteur has multiplied human skin and moistened the blood with the poisonous secretions of mad rabbits. Dr. B. W. Richardson has invented a painless cutting-knife, and has tested it upon his own arm. And Mr. Harrison Branthwaite, in the interest of temperance, has administered brandy for the purpose of testing its thermic effects, to three classes of persons—habitual drunkards, moderate drinkers and abstainers.—Popular Science Monthly.

Pet Terrapins in a Pen.

A Georgia newspaper man visited a terrapin pen the other day, where were confined 300 of these costly little turtles. When their keeper rapped on the pen, they crowded about like a drove of hogs, and showed like eagerness to tackle the feed, which was shrimps, crabs, and small fish.—New York Sun.

The American Colony in Paris.

The American colony is fast decreasing. The English colony is larger, but the two do not mingle freely, even maintaining different geographical identity. —New York Graphic.

Rivalry Between the East and West.

"This question of the rivalry of the east and west," continued the gentleman, "grows more important every year. The Atlantic seacoast, with New York as its head center, becomes more and more antagonistic to the interests of the west, and it is only a question of time when there will be a great party of the east opposed to one of the west and south. The elements for such parties are forming, and it seems to me when they crystallize that the reign of New York will be for the time over, and that the great west will rule. The west has now the major part of the voting population of the United States and it is in the infancy of its growth, while the east is far advanced."

"Might such a state of affairs lead to the moving of the national capital to the west or center of the country?"

"No! Washington City will continue to be the capital of the United States as long as the Union lasts. The railroad and the telegraph have made all parts of the country near to each other, and there is not the reason for a central capital as in the past. If you will look over the world you will find that the great capitals are seldom in the center of the population over which they govern. London is in a corner of Great Britain, Paris is in the north of France, Pekin is in the east of China, Berlin is in the north of the German empire, and St. Petersburg is away off on one side of Russia. Then there is too much money invested in Washington, both by politicians and the people, to ever allow of a change of the capital. The senators and representatives now own private property in Washington running high into the millions, and there will always be large individual interests owned by the men who control such movements. The government buildings of Washington are worth at least $100,000,000, and the parks are worth many millions more. Then there are the historical associations of nearly 100 years of our government. No, I don't think the capital can ever be moved, and I don't think it should be."

A Few Facts Concerning Coral.

The value of coral depends on its color and size. The white or rose-tinted variety stands highest in popular esteem, perhaps chiefly because it is the rarest. It is mostly found in the straits of Messina and on some parts of the African and Sardinian coasts. The bright red coral, in which the polyps are still living when it is fished up, stands next in value. Dead coral has a duller tint, and is consequently sold at a lower price. Two entirely different substances bear the name of black coral. One of them is not, properly speaking, coral at all, and it is commercially worthless, as it breaks into flakes instead of yielding to the knife, though it is often sold as a costly curiosity to foreigners. The other is the common red coral which has undergone a sea change, probably through the decomposition of the living beings that once built and inhabited it. It is not much admired in Europe, but in India it commands high prices, so that large quantities of it are exported every year.

These are the four important distinctions of color, though they, of course, include intermediate tints which rank according to their clearness and brilliancy. The size is a still more important matter. The thickness of the stem of the coral plant—we use the commercial and entirely unscientific expression —determines its price, and many a branch of red coral is valued more highly on account of its thickness than a smaller piece of the choicer rose color. The reason for this is clear. A large, straight piece of material affords an opportunity to the artificer; a crooked one, if it is only bulky enough, can at least be turned into large beads; mere points and fragments can only be used for smaller ones, or made into those horns which are said to be invaluable against the evil eye, but which do not command a high price in the market, perhaps because it is overstocked.—Saturday Review.

Providing for New York's "Unwashed."

New York provides liberally for its "great unwashed" in a fleet of eleven free baths which are moored at different points in the East and North rivers. These baths are big brown houses, looking like half of a packing box, with two doors on the land side from which egress and ingress is had to the baths. These boxes are moored with two strong cables and ride at anchor. The largest of them is at the battery, and and resembles the old picture-book representations of Noah's ark, with the American flag flying from the peak.

Access to these baths is had by means of a broad gang-plank, and an unruly rush is prevented by the presence of a big, good-natured policeman. The baths are open from 5 in the morning until 9 at night, and are a popular resort for all the men and boys who can not go to the beaches. They are clean, under control of bathmen, and those frequenting them are subject to rules and regulations governing them. At the battery is a free bath for girls and women at a short distance from that of the boys, but at the other places alternate days are given to women.—Cor. Chicago Journal.

An Idea In Teaching Children.

The setting aside of the will of the late A. D. Ditmars, of Lancaster, who left $80,000 "to ascertain what children were created to do," leaves it for some one else to try to develop his curious idea. One of the features of the institution which he hoped to found was a room containing musical instruments, tools used in the various trades, and other appliances. When a child was brought to be entered into the institution it was to be taken into this room and its actions observed. If the little one's inclination led it to the musical instruments, it was to be educated as a musician. If its desires tended toward the plane and the saw, a carpenter's trade would be taught it, and so on through the list of occupations.—The Argonaut.

Street railways in 233 cities and towns of this country are said to have in use 84,5000 horses and 16,850 cars.

FOUNDING THE ASTOR LIBRARY.

An Institution That Has Cost the Family More Than $1,000,000.

John Jacob Astor, whose remarkable career has shaped the destiny of Lafayette place, died in 1848. His will contained a codicil in these words: "Desiring to render a public benefit to the city of New York, and to contribute to the advancement of useful knowledge and the general good of society, I do by this codicil appoint $400,000 out of my residuary estate to the establishment of a public library in the city of New York." The instrument then gave specific directions as to how the money should be applied, and appointed by name eleven trustees, including, in addition to the gentlemen before named, the mayor of the city, the son of the donor, William B. Astor, and the grandson, Charles Astor Bristed. Washington Irving was the first president of the trustees, and Mr. Cogswell superintendent of the new institution. The edifice, 65 feet front by 120 deep, was built of brown stone, in the Byzantine style of architecture, and was completed in May, 1853.

In 1855 the trustees were presented with the adjoining lot, eighty feet front, by Mr. William B. Astor, who proceeded to erect a second edifice at his own cost, similar in most respects to the existing structure built by his father. This was completed and opened in 1859. The munificent gift of $50,000 for the purchase of books soon followed; and by will, in 1875, a bequest of $249,000 bore testimony to the interest with which the son of the original founder regarded the institution. He gave in all about $550,000. In 1879 his son, John Jacob Astor, grandson of the first John Jacob Astor, contributed to the enduring monument by presenting three lots, in all seventy-five feet front, to the trustees and building thereon the third section of the great library in uniformity with its two predecessors. The outlay of the grandson, exclusive of the land, was some $250,000. Thus this great benificence, bringing within reach of the American people a rare and diversified collection of standard works, literary and scientific treasures, a blessing to the present and all future generations, has cost the Astor family considerably more than $1,000,000. * * * * * *

The alcoves are fruitful in historic associations. Here Washington Irving was often to be found, and for years Horace Greeley's inkstand, pen and paper decorated the table reserved for his use. Almost every notable writer in the country has in one way or another left his footprints here. One alcove has its odd story of being haunted; and the neighboring Sands mansion has also its ghost, which in former times had a curious way of frequenting the library, as if seeking congenial companionship, on winter evenings whenever the eminent Dr. Cogswell chanced to be alone.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The Summit of Our Continent.

Professor Iglesias, of San Luiz Potosi, maintains that the barometrical measurements of the Mexican mountains have been formulated without due allowance for the influence of the coast climate, and that Mount Orizaba, not Popocatapetl, is the summit of the North American continent. It is certainly the finest mountain of the Mexican Cordilleras. Its rival humps its broad back above the naked hills of the central plateau, while Orizaba lifts its symmetrical cone high above the pine summits of the coast range, as the only snow-peak which the mariners of the gulf can view in its full grandeur. The height exceeds that of Mont Blanc by at least 2,000 feet—Dr. Felix L. Oswald.

Gathering Honey on the Nile.

In Egypt, on the River Nile, as well as in Italy, on the Po, the custom of traveling for bee pasturage has been continued from the remotest ages to the present time, as there is about seven weeks' difference in the vegetation on the upper and lower Nile. They use large flat-boats holding from sixty to 100 hives of bees and float slowly along as the vegetation advances. The sinking of the boat to a certain depth in the water indicates when they have filled the hives with honey.—Chicago Times.

Action of Sunlight on Fire.

It is a mooted question whether the sunlight falling upon an ordinary wood fire retards the process of combustion. This is a popular notion, and one writer says it looks as though the fire burned more feebly when the sun shines full upon it. It is now alleged by scientific men that there may be some influence produced by the action of the sun.—Boston Budget.

Ruskin in His Young Days.

Mr. Ruskin gives in his recently-published chapters of "Præterita" some interesting details of his student years. At a certain age he speaks of himself as "simply a little floppy and soppy tadpole —little more than a stomach with a tail to it, flattening and wriggling itself up the crystal ripples and in the pure sands of the spring-head of youth."—Exchange.

The Head Cook and His Art.

A New York head cook talks hopefully about the condition of his art. He says that the taste for highly spiced food a few years ago had destroyed all discrimination, so that an artist had no better chance in the kitchen than a bungler. Now, however, the cooking schools and other elevating influences have enabled skill to be recognized.—Chicago Herald.

A Petrified Head and Hat.

A petrified head and hat were found recently at Chimney Point, on Lake Champlain, New York. The curiosity is as solid as marble and weighs thirty-five pounds. It was found on the bank of the lake, where it had been washed from a grave in what in the olden time was a French burial ground.—Chicago Times.

Six and One-Half Tons of Diamonds.

It is estimated that the aggregate weight of the diamonds taken from the South African fields up to the present time is six and one-half tons, of the total value of $200,000,000.